

BangaloreMirror

TEMP Max 20 | Min 20 | Humidity 70%

Partly cloudy sky



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Source: Google/Material, Power of YouTube Shorts, November 2023 (Base: India short-form video watchers, including YouTube Shorts and at least one other SFV platform, n=1,790), Field Dates: 11/7/23 - 11/22/23

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Source: Google/Material, Power of YouTube Shorts, November 2023 (Base: India short-form video watchers, including YouTube Shorts and at least one other SFV platform, n=1,790), Field Dates: 11/7/23 - 11/22/23

YouTube Shorts

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As civic agency ropes in forestry students to identify and report about trees that are precariously poised or even slathered with concrete, environmentalists say meaningful action must follow

TOUCH WOOD

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

To ensure better management of avenue trees and avoid deadly accidents during the monsoon, the Greater

Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has deployed a team of 10 forestry students. The team, called tree enumerators, will go around the city to identify trees that face a risk of falling during storms and the monsoon.

Dangerous and diseased trees will be identified by the team and eliminated immediately.



These tree enumerators, who are mostly forestry graduates from Sirsi and Ponampet, will also undergo a two-day training at the Institute of Wood Science and Technology for identification of such trees and report it to the deputy conservator of forest.

"The team started training on November 12. Starting November 17, the forestry graduates will go around the city, identify dangerous and damaged trees, and report them to us for management. Trees on arterial main roads will first be inspected, followed by avenue trees on sub-arterial roads. This exercise will continue for two

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

**FEELING
REJUVENATED**



**After 18-month
pause, work on bund
repair, weeding,
dewatering begins
at Bellandur
Lake**

**CITY
PAGE 2**



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THINGS TO DO

01 Timeless jazz



John Shannon, the acclaimed jazz guitarist, composer, and co-founder of Con Alma Jazz Club, will be performing live. His music blends deep jazz traditions with spiritual exploration, creating a sound that feels both contemporary and timeless. **Where:** Windmills, Whitefield; **When:** November 14 and 15, 9.30 pm

02 Picture this

Virasat Art and Virasat Art Publication are presenting 'Hindustan Files: 1757-1950', a unique exhibition celebrating art, history, and heritage. The exhibition will showcase Company School paintings, works by eminent European artists, Kalighat patachitra, Kansaripara lithoprints, vintage books, letters, photographs, and rare documents. **Where:** Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road; **When:** Opening on November 14, 5.30 pm

03 Turn it up

Vijay Antony will perform live, delivering an electrifying night filled with powerful music, heartfelt emotion, and unforgettable energy. **Where:** Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; **When:** November 14, 7 pm



04 Pet project

Rotary Bangalore, IT Corridor, is organising an annual family and pet engagement programme as a precursor to the Bengaluru Midnight Marathon. The pet-athon will include fun games for pets and families, and a pet adoption arena. **Where:** Therpup Resort, Sarjapur; **When:** November 16, 11 am

05 Theatrical journey

Prabhat, The Temple of Art, an internationally renowned artistic institution, is presenting '18 Days' which revolves around the Kurukshetra war from The Mahabharatha. The dance musical aims at communicating the story of Kurukshetra in the most convincing fashion, which can cater to audiences across the globe irrespective of demographic characteristics. **Where:** Sri Kumaran Children's Academy, Doddakallasandra; **When:** November 15, 4 pm and 7 pm

Bellandur Lake rejuvenation resumes after setbacks

BDA notifies National Green Tribunal of ongoing repair works at lake, says removal of weeds for dewatering started in October, after completion wetland formation work will continue

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After a delay of more than 18 months, the rejuvenation of Bellandur Lake has resumed, raising hope of mitigating the woes of residents in the area.

Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that it has started bund repair work, dewatering, and excavation of trenches to carry out dewatering of sorted rainwater.

At present, the deployment of machinery and site preparation for desilting and dewatering is in process. Once dewatering is complete, wetland formation work will resume.

"Repair of bund for vehicular movement and cleaning of weeds in channels and trenches for dewatering was started in October. Once dewatering is completed, wetland formation work will continue," the BDA informed the tribunal.

Notably, the rejuvenation work was on hold since June last year due to various reasons. While no progress was made between June and October 2024 due to rain, lack of funds marred the on-ground work from November 2024 to April



After repeated hold-ups, restoration of Bellandur Lake is back on track; residents and activists urge authorities to ensure work is completed before monsoon of 2026

2025. In May 2025, BDA's earlier submitted proposal for an additional grant was approved by the state government; however, work could not progress again between June and September this year due to the monsoon.

Residents and citizen lake activists in the area say that while the work has started recently, the state government should ensure that the lake is rejuvenated before the monsoon of 2026.

Sonali Singh, Citizen Changemaker, Bellandur Lake, said that work on dewatering and desilting has only started recently. She explained that the activity is taking place in the deepest part of the lake, so dewatering, drying of the lake bed, and desilting will require considerable time. She added that the estimated timeline for completion is May 2026. "Our request to the state government

is to stick with the timelines and complete the Bellandur lake rejuvenation before the next monsoons, which includes dewatering, strengthening of bunds, desilting, and creation of wetlands," said Singh.

According to the report, 22.69 lakh cubic metres of silt have been removed from the lake bed, for a total of 32.33 lakh cubic metres. In the progress report submitted to the green court, BDA has also highlighted that 30 per cent of the wetland construction work at the main inlet of Koramangala and Agara Valley is completed.

Notably, BDA initiated the rejuvenation work of Bellandur in 2020. While the desilting and overall work were originally scheduled for completion in October 2023, followed by a later completion deadline of December 2024, it is far from being over.

Karnataka mandates paid menstrual leave across all sectors

In a landmark decision promoting workplace equity and women's health, the Karnataka State Government has officially notified an order mandating one day of paid menstrual leave per month for female employees across all sectors. This comprehensive policy makes Karnataka the first state in India to extend the benefit uniformly to women working in both government and private establishments, including IT-BT firms, multinational corporations (MNCs), factories, and commercial shops.

The order, issued by the Labour Department, directs all concerned employers to provide a total of 12 days of paid leave per annum—one day per month—to all permanent, contractual, and outsourced female employees between the ages of 18 and 52. The stated objective is to enhance the health, work efficiency, and morale of the women workforce.

Crucially, the policy comes with straightforward conditions: the leave must be used within the month it is allotted and cannot be carried over, and employees are not required to submit any medical certificate to avail the monthly day off.

While the move has been widely applauded as a progressive step—building upon limited policies in states like Bihar and Odisha—some industry concerns have surfaced, particularly among MSMEs, regarding the administrative challenges and potential for unintentional bias in hiring due to the uncertainty of the leave. Regardless, by formally recognising menstrual health as a workplace rights issue, Karnataka has set a significant precedent for gender-sensitive labour reforms nationwide. — BMB

Formula Manipl shifts gears with electric vehicle success

Students of the Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT) under the banner of Formula Manipl have developed a fully functioning electric race car that secured third place nationally and second in the Statics event at Formula Bharat 2025. Established in 2007, Formula Manipl designs, builds, and tests Formula-style race cars from scratch. The team comprises students from various engineering disciplines, each contributing to subsystems such as aerodynamics, vehicle dynamics, transmission, and e-powertrain. The 2024 season marked the team's transition from combustion to electric vehicles, with the new

model powered by an Emrax 208 motor.

Team Captain Amogha Rao said the initiative reflects their collective commitment to learning and innovation. Transmission Head Anshul Garg explained that each car is the result of months of design, testing, and teamwork. The team's next project includes developing Formula Manipl's first fully driverless car for the 2026 season. MIT Director Dr Anil Rana said the podium finish marks a key milestone in student innovation. Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) Pro Chancellor Dr HS Ballal said the team's effort reflects skill, leadership, and commitment. Since inception, Formula Manipl has built 13 combustion and 4 electric vehicles and has represented India in multiple international Formula Student competitions across Europe. — BMB

Teachers' transfers put on hold until April

The School Education Department has delivered disappointing news to primary and secondary school teachers who were expecting transfers at the start of the academic year, instructing those recently assigned new schools through counselling to remain at their current posts until the end of the academic session. Despite multiple postponements and the ongoing fifth round of transfer counselling—with district-level counselling recently concluding and divisional/inter-district counselling still pending—the Commissioner's office issued an official memo.

The directive mandates that all teachers who received pre-

ferred transfers through counselling, excluding those who opted for mutual transfers, must continue in their current schools until April 10, 2026.

Sources said that this decision stems from a focus on academic continuity, improving exam results, and minimising disruption to students, especially since the SSLC (Class 10) exam schedule has been announced to begin on March 17. The department believes mid-year transfers could seriously impact student learning, as children would need time to adjust to new teachers' styles and new teachers would need time to acclimatise to the school environment. Consequently, teachers who received transfer orders are to be relieved from their current posts and must compulsorily report to their new positions on April 10, 2026. — BMB

Final chance for BEd applicants to verify original documents

The Department of School Education has given one last opportunity for candidates who applied for BEd admissions for 2025 to verify their original documents at designated nodal centres by November 15. Earlier, applicants were instructed to complete the verification between October 3 and November 3. A total of 28,976 eligible and 6,793 disputed applicants' names have been published on the department's website — <https://schooleducation.karnataka.gov.in>. However, 6,174 candidates are yet to get their documents verified. The department has directed all such candidates to appear at their respective nodal centres by November 15 with all original documents to correct or update their records. No changes will be allowed after this date. Candidates wishing to make changes to college preferences can also do so online by November 15. — BMB

Bengalureans lock in year-end travel plans early to beat rush and cash in on deals

As the calendar inches closer to December, travel fever has gripped Bengalureans early this year. From flight bookings to hotel reservations, many residents are already finalizing their year-end travel itineraries to avoid the usual last-minute rush and soaring prices. Travel portals and agents report a sharp surge in bookings for both domestic and international destinations. Airlines have already seen occupancy climb for the last two weeks of December — a period that typically sees a rush of holiday travelers. According to data from travel aggregators, Bengaluru is among the top three Indian cities leading early bookings for the year-end season.

"Bookings have opened much earlier this year," said Shilpa Rao, head of a city-based travel agency. "We are seeing a 30-35% increase in advance reservations compared to last year. Families are keen to lock in better rates before flight and hotel prices spike." Popular domestic destinations include Goa, Coorg, Ooty, and Kerala's backwaters, while international hotspots like Thailand, Vietnam, and Dubai



Travel influencers are curating itineraries that combine affordability with scenic value

remain top choices for quick getaways. Many corporate employees, taking advantage of extended weekends

and pending leave, are opting for five- to seven-day trips.

Airline executives confirm that

demand patterns have shifted. "Earlier, December travel would pick up only after mid-month," said an airline official based at Kempegowda International Airport. "This time, we saw a rise in bookings from mid-October itself. People want to avoid disappointment and are looking to secure low fares while they still can."

For those not travelling abroad, road trips and short getaways closer to the city are gaining traction. Travel influencers and bloggers from Bengaluru are curating itineraries that combine affordability with scenic value. "Not everyone wants to spend lakhs on a vacation," said travel content creator Rahul Desai. "I've been helping followers plan budget trips to Hampi, Chikmagalur, and Sakleshpur. The earlier you plan, the better your stay and route options." Hotels and resorts, too, are witnessing an uptick in early inquiries. A representative from a popular Coorg resort noted, "We've already filled 60% of our December rooms. This is unusual — typically we see this kind of demand in the second week of December. Guests are booking early to grab our festive packages."

For others, it's about securing time with loved ones after a busy year. "December is when we unwind," said IT professional Sneha Prakash. "This time, we didn't want to scramble for tickets or overpriced hotels, so we booked our Kerala trip way back in September. It's such a relief knowing everything's sorted." Meanwhile, travel operators have rolled out early-bird offers to lure proactive planners. Discounts on bundled packages — combining flights, stays, and sightseeing — are helping travelers save big money. Experts say these deals are driving the early surge.

"Planning early not only reduces stress but also ensures better experiences," said tourism analyst Karthik Menon. "The post-pandemic travel mindset has evolved — people value flexibility and want to maximize their holidays without last-minute chaos." With Bengaluru's travel mood set early, the city seems ready to swap its tech buzz for the travel buzz this December. Whether it's sandy beaches, hill retreats, or quiet homestays, one thing is certain — Bengalureans are determined not to let unplanned holidays spoil their year-end cheer.

Christmas & New Year Holidays

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Popular Tours

- South America Rio Carnival** 12 Feb 2026
- Antarctica** 17 Feb 2026
- Taiwan Lantern Festival Hongkong Macau** 02 Mar 2026
- Northern Lights Ice Breaker Cruise** 14 Jan, 13 Feb 2026

Tour	Duration	Options
Europe	7 To 22 Days	36 tour options
Africa	6 To 13 Days	6 tour options
Australia New Zealand	7 To 17 Days	4 tour options
Japan Korea	6 To 9 Days	5 tour options
America	6 To 20 Days	9 tour options
South East Asia	4 To 12 Days	22 tour options
Nepal & Bhutan	7 To 10 Days	3 tour options
Dubai and Middle East	5 To 10 Days	10 tour options
Gujarat	2 To 12 Days	9 tour options
Madhya Pradesh	4 To 15 Days	5 tour options
North East	5 To 12 Days	4 tour options
Kashmir	6 To 9 Days	8 tour options
Himachal	6 To 12 Days	8 tour options
Andaman	5 To 7 Days	3 tour options
Kerala	5 To 10 Days	9 tour options
Rajasthan	4 To 15 Days	12 tour options

Bengaluru Departures

Tour	Departure
North East	08 Dec
Andaman	12, 24 Dec
Shimla Manali	25 Dec
Rajasthan Mewad Mt. Abu	26 Dec
Phuket Krabi Bangkok	27 Dec
Australia New Zealand	07 Dec
Bali Jakarta	20 Dec
Singapore Thailand Malaysia	23 Dec
Vietnam Cambodia	23 Dec
Thailand	24, 30 Dec
Dubai Abu Dhabi	24, 27 Dec
Egypt Hurghada	20 Jan, 10, 24 Feb
Japan Cherry Blossom	23, 25, 27, 29 Mar 2026
Japan Korea	28 Mar 2026
Japan Alpine Route With Ashikaga Flower Park	24 April
Enticing Europe	6, 22 April
Images of Europe	9, 30 April
Wonders of Europe	9 April, 5 May
Madhya Pradesh	20 Dec, 3, 17 Jan

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Kesari Jayanagar 08040 911 639

Kesari Sahakarnagar 08065 113 100
Kesari HSR Layout 080 4091 1874

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New BDA corridor aims for smoother city link



The Bangalore Development Authority is planning to link its ambitious Bengaluru Business Corridor project—previously known as the Peripheral Ring Road—with the existing NICE Road network. Momentum increased after BBC Chairman L K Atheeq inspected the NICE Junction on Magadi Road. The BDA is preparing a revised Detailed Project Report to finalise alignment and design. Under the new proposal, the BBC will cover 112 km—compared to the PRR's 64.5 to 72 km—with a width restricted to 100 feet, improving connectivity.

— BMB

Data park to anchor city's digital future

The Karnataka government has approved a large-scale Data Centre Park on 300 acres near Tavarekere in Hoskote taluk to boost Bengaluru's digital infrastructure and attract global tech firms. Developed under a 'hub-and-spoke' model, it will support cloud and AI industries while creating jobs. The Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) has reserved 300 of 1,000 acquired acres for the project. Linked to regional centres in Mysuru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, and Davanagere, the park will establish Bengaluru East as a major South Indian data hub.

— BMB

Sewage woes choke life at Mangammanapalya Lake

Continuous sewage inflow, failed restoration efforts, poor coordination between agencies intensify pollution, threatening aquatic life, destroying community's only green

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Mangammanapalya, HSR Layout, and surrounding areas, along with lake activists, are worried about the inordinate delay in fixing sewage issues at the water body near HSR Layout. They have been complaining to the then BBMP Lakes Department and the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) authorities for more than five years, but in vain.

Bangalore Mirror published a story — Pollution predicament plagues another lake — on April 20, 2024, narrating how the residents and lake activists were concerned about the deteriorating condition of Mangammanapalya Lake near HSR Layout and how the authorities concerned failed to preserve the water body despite spending a lot of money on its rejuvenation. The residents and environmentalists complain that BWSSB engineers have failed to take measures to fix the problem on a permanent basis. They also point out that the BWSSB engineers have not fixed the manhole that frequently gets choked.

"We have planted some saplings on the lake bund to ensure greenery. We have been complaining to the lake authorities and BWSSB engineers to stop sewage from flowing into the lake but in vain. The BWSSB engineers take ad hoc measures instead of



Sewage flowing into Mangammanapalya Lake

fixing the manhole issue on a permanent basis," said Sunil Achar, founder of Sharegreen. He added that the water quality in the lake is deteriorating due to the sewage menace.

Expressing a similar opinion, Mahesh Karthik, a resident of ITI Layout, HSR Layout 7th Sector, said the sewage flow into the lake has become a nuisance for people who visit the lake for a walk in the morning and even-

ing. "I have found sewage flowing into the lake for the last few months. The authorities concerned have failed to stop it. We have been complaining to them, but they continue to be apathetic. I want the authorities to repair the manhole to ensure no sewage flows into the lake," said Mahesh Karthik.

The tender process is in progress. The underground pipeline work will be taken up shortly

— Satish, Assistant Engineer, BWSSB.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru South City Corporation Lakes Department Assistant Engineer Deepashree said she wrote a letter to the BWSSB engineer emphasizing the need to stop sewage from flowing into the lake. "I have been following the issue with the BWSSB engineer. I came to know that BWSSB floated a tender for laying an underground drainage pipe. I will remind them again to fix the problem as early as possible," she said. However, BWSSB Assistant Engineer Satish said the proposal for laying an underground drainage pipeline has been approved. "The tender process is in progress. The underground pipeline work will be taken up shortly. As far as the manhole issue is concerned, I have already deputed men to clear it," the engineer said.

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Pothole peril

Jayamahal



A large pothole on Nandidurga Road, Jayamahal Extension, has gradually expanded from half a foot to nearly 4 sq ft over the past month.

Abandoned vehicle

Lingarajapuram



Abandoned vehicles on 3rd A Main Road, KSFC Layout, have been blocking both the road and footpath for several months, inconveniencing.

Garbage menace

Amruthalli



Garbage piled near an electrical junction box on Amruthalli Main Road poses a serious fire risk, prompting residents to urge immediate action from BESCOM and BBMP.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERNED

My Clients 1) Mukthar Ahamed son of Abdul Sattar, aged about 73 Years, 2) Wahida Khanum wife of Mukthar Ahamed aged about 55 years, both are residing at No. 127/1, Muthsandra, Ekarajapura, Hosakote, Bangalore-562165, intend in entered into a sale agreement in respect of under mentioned schedule property for a valuable sale consideration from Sri K.N.Krishnamurthy son of G. Narayanappa, aged about 34 years, residing at Parapanahalli village, K. Sathyavara Post, Nandagudi Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore - 562122.

That if any person/s having any claim, right or interest in the under mentioned schedule property may file their objections to the under signed with proof of documents within 21 days from the date of this publication of this notice. The concerned objector/s may file their objections with relevant records/ documents undersigned, otherwise my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction by way of registering sale deed in my client's name or his nominee/s in respect of the under mentioned schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the gramatana property No.44, PID.No. 150300402300420041, measuring east to west 22.86 meters, north to south 12.192 meters totally measuring 278.71 meters, situated at Shivanapura village panchayath, Nandagudi Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural, bounded on; East by: Road, West by: land of Dodda Gangappa, North by: house of Chicka Akkayamma, South by: land of Lakshmana.

Sd/- MOHAMED SHAFI ULLA
 ADVOCATE, Roll No. KAR. 59/86
 No. 9. M.F. Hameed Shah Complex,
 Cubbonpet Main Road, BANGALORE -
 560 002. Mob.: 9341249363

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERNED

My clients 1) Mohamed Jaffar M.I. son of M.Iqbal Baig, aged about 53 years, 2) Asifa Banu wife of Mohamed Jaffar aged about 46 years, both are residing at No. 127/1, Muthsandra, Ekarajapura, Hosakote, Bangalore-562165, intend to entered into a sale agreement in respect of under mentioned schedule property for a valuable sale consideration from Smt.Gowamma Daugther of late Muniyappa, aged about 72 years and her LR's, residing at Karpanahalli village, K.Satvara post, Nandagudi Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore rural.

That if any person's having any claim, right or interest in the under mentioned schedule property may file their objections to the under signed with proof of documents within 21 days from the date of this publication of this notice. The concerned objector/s may file their objections with relevant records/ documents undersigned, otherwise my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction by way of registering sale deed in my client's name or his nominee/s in respect of the under mentioned schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy.No.43/1, measuring 0-10 guntas, situated at Kamalipura village, Sulibele Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore rural and bounded on; East by: land of Rajappa, West by: Government gundu topu & Sy.No.44/2, North by: Government tank bund, South by: land of K.M.Krishnappa Sy.No.38/2.

Sd/- MOHAMED SHAFI ULLA
 ADVOCATE, Roll No. KAR. 59/86
 No. 9. M.F. Hameed Shah Complex,
 Cubbonpet Main Road, BANGALORE -
 560 002. Mob.: 9341249363

New draft eases building margins

The Karnataka government has issued a draft notification easing setback norms for buildings under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits. The move—part of proposed amendments to the Revised Master Plan 2015 and the Greater Bengaluru Building Regulation 2025—aims to simplify building approvals and address space constraints in smaller residential and commercial plots.

What's changing

Under the current law, plots up to 600 sq. ft. require at least one meter of open space (setback) around buildings. The new proposal reduces setback widths, allowing construction closer to the property line. These relaxed rules will apply to existing, under-construction, and new buildings up to a height of 12 meters, excluding stilt floors.

Revised Setback Provisions

For plots up to 600 sq. ft., only 2.5 feet of space must be left in the front, while no setback is required at the rear. On one side of the plot, just 1.5 feet of space is mandatory. Plots between 600 and 1,600 sq. ft. will need 0.9 meters (front), 0.7 meters (rear), and 0.7 meters (one side) of setback. For plots between 150

sq. m and 4,000 sq. m, a 5-meter setback must be maintained around the structure. Additionally, plots up to 750 sq. m can now use setback space to build open staircases.

Parking Flexibility

Buildings constructed on sites up to 1.5 acres can install car lift systems for parking instead of leaving open space for ramps. However, plots larger than 1.5 acres must include both car lifts and ramps. The required number of parking spaces and ramp widths will vary by capacity — for instance, buildings accommodating up to 25 cars must have a 3.5-meter-wide ramp, while those designed for 400 or more cars must provide two or more ramps at least 6 meters wide.

Impact on Homeowners

The revision is expected to benefit small and middle-class homeowners who often build compact plots where traditional setback rules were hard to follow. Authorities said the new norms would encourage regularisation of existing buildings violating older setback standards. For developers, the change allows greater floor area and more efficient land use. Once finalised, the rules will take effect across all GBA areas.

— BMB

CRIME FILES

Child molester jailed for 20 years

The Bengaluru Rural District 1 POC SO Special Court has sentenced a 36-year-old man to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a 13-year-old boy. The convict, identified as Gyan Rubin Anthony Muthu, alias Rubin, a resident of Jakkur and native of Dakshina Kanada, was also fined ₹60,000.

According to police reports, on the evening of January 21, 2024, Rubin, who was working as a beggar in Jakkur, lured and sexually assaulted a Class 7 student from the Bagalur area. The boy disclosed the incident to his mother the following day, after which a complaint was lodged at Bagalur Police Station.

Acting swiftly, a team led by Inspector VS Shabarish registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and arrested the accused. Following a detailed investigation, a charge sheet was filed in court.

After examining the evidence and hearing the arguments presented by Government Prosecutor KS Pushpa, Judge KN Saraswati found Rubin guilty and imposed the 20-year sentence. Of the total fine, ₹50,000 will be awarded to the victim as compensation.

The court directed the District Legal Services Authority to release ₹5 lakh from the Victim Compensation Fund. Rubin has been in judicial custody since January 23, 2024. —BMB

Five arrested in CM relief fund scam

The Vidhana Soudha police have registered a case against five individuals, including two women, for allegedly submitting fake medical documents to fraudulently claim financial assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

According to a complaint filed by Suresh K, an official from the Chief Minister's Office, the accused — Dhananjaya, Kyathappa, Yashodamma, Chandrashekhar, and Jayamma, all residents of Nelamangala — forged medical records claiming to have undergone treatment for serious ailments at Manipal Hospital, Yeshwanthpur.

The fraud came to light when officials cross-checked the documents with the hospital and found that no such patients had ever been admitted or treated there. The discrepancy was reported to senior authorities, following which a formal complaint was lodged.

The police have charged the accused with forgery and criminal conspiracy. Investigators are now attempting to trace the suspects and determine whether more individuals were involved in the racket, officials said. —BMB

Mystery death in tours and travel office

A 45-year-old man, identified as Venkatesh, a local BJP worker, was found dead under mysterious circumstances at his tours and travel office in Vyalikaval, Central Bengaluru, on Thursday. Police said residents alerted the control room after a foul smell emanated from the locked office. A team rushed to the scene, forced open the door, and found Venkatesh's body in a decomposed state.

Initial inquiries indicate that it may be a case of suicide, although the exact cause of death will be confirmed after the post-mortem.

Preliminary findings also suggest that financial distress might have driven Venkatesh to take the extreme step. He had reportedly recorded a video explaining his financial troubles before his death. The Vyalikaval police have registered a case and are continuing their investigation. —BMB

Women's association loses ₹27 lakh to fraud

A couple and others have been accused of defrauding members of a women's association of over ₹27 lakh by promising them residential plots at low cost through a fraudulent finance scheme.

According to a complaint filed at the Soladevanahalli Police Station, the complainant, who heads an association called Bhoomi Stree Shakti with around 20 female members, said that Sukanya and her husband Narasimha, both residents of the same locality, attended a meeting of the association and introduced themselves as owners of Lakshmi Prasad Finance on Chikkasandra-Hesaraghatta Main Road. They allegedly

assured members that they could provide plots in Doddaballapur at discounted rates and offer lucrative profits through a chit fund investment linked to the Diwali festival.

The complainant and others paid ₹27 lakh to Sukanya and Narasimha through notarised documents and digital payments. Despite repeated assurances, neither the plots nor the money were returned. The accused allegedly threatened the victims, using caste-based intimidation and death threats. Police have filed a case against Sukanya, Narasimha, and family members for cheating and criminal intimidation. —BMB

Fake papers used to steal 10 acres

The Avalahalli police have registered an FIR against multiple individuals for allegedly creating false documents to illegally acquire 10 acres in Bandapura village and arrested Ashwin Sancheti. The case came to light after Venkatappa, holding the GPA from original owner Radha, lodged a complaint on October 22.

The disputed land, 10 acres in Survey Nos 20, 21, and 44/1, was bought by Krishnan and Radha in 1978. After Krishnan's death in 1986, the land stayed in Radha's name. Recently, she discovered false documents had been fabricated to transfer ownership illegally.

The FIR names Ashwin Sancheti (Satva Group), Radha (Basaveshwara Nagar), Lok Sundar, Dhruva Kumar, Meenakshi, Dr Lavanya, Radha (Dollars Colony), Venkataram Naidu Kola, Shivarudrappa, Srinivas R Alakatti, Lingaraj, Madhusudhan, Munendra, and Shivasree Media Pvt Ltd. Ashwin is in custody; searches continue for the others as Avalahalli police investigate the land-grabbing racket. —BMB

Hostel hell: Filthy & unsafe

Acting on a 2022 complaint highlighting irregularities in government hostels across Bengaluru, the Lokayukta, Justice BS Patil, launched a citywide operation on Thursday to inspect hostel conditions. Following preliminary reports by Lokayukta police confirming widespread lapses, Justice Patil constituted 14 teams comprising judicial and police officers to conduct simultaneous raids on 28 hostels from 2 pm onwards.

During his inspection of the Government Science College Boys' Hostel on MG Road, Justice Patil found serious shortcomings. The hostel, meant for 275 students, now houses 373, forcing many to sleep on the floor. Records were poorly maintained, rooms overcrowded, and only 38 toilets were available despite 25,000 monthly for upkeep. Justice Patil ordered toilets to be cleaned at least four times daily.

Students complained of poor meals, unhygienic utensils, and broken facilities. Non-students lived in the hostel, and smoking and alcohol use were ignored. Justice Patil ordered immediate hygiene improvements, with more issues expected to surface. —BMB

No hit&run, this was attempted murder

A 23-year-old techie, identified as Sukrit Keshav Gowda, has been arrested for deliberately ramming his vehicle into a two-wheeler, leading to the death of the rider and injuring the pillion passenger in an incident near Ramaiah Signal Bus Stand on New BEL Road on the night of October 26, 2025.

A red car deliberately rammed a family's two-wheeler near Ramaiah Hospital, injuring the rider and passenger. They were rushed to MS Ramaiah Hospital, and the husband later required admission at St John's Hospital due to complications. The victims' condition remains under close medical supervision. Bystanders who helped at the scene are being commended for their quick action.

Initially treated as a hit-and-run on October 28, police later reclassified the case as attempted murder after reviewing CCTV footage. The accused was traced and arrested near Balaji Layout on November 7, confessed to the act, and the car was seized. He was remanded to judicial custody on November 8. —BMB

Complaints of falling trees, branches on the rise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

months," said Sudarshan GK, DCE, GBA.

Officials say the responsibilities of tree enumerators will be different from the Canopy Management Team, which mostly addresses applications from the public and approvals of tree or branch felling granted by the Tree Expert Committee.

"The Canopy Management teams are occupied with tree or branch cutting requests by the citizens. Moreover, the tree enumerators will also identify trees with concretised bases that lead to weaker roots, causing such trees to fall eventually," added Sudarshan.

Official data of trees and branches falling complaints from citizens show that such incidents in Bengaluru are on the rise.

Between April 2020 and March 2021, BBMP's canopy management teams attended to

7,472 cases of fallen trees and branches. This number went up to 12,107 between April 2021 and March 2022, followed by 17,948 canopy management cases between April 2023 and March 2024. Between April 2024 and May 2025, the canopy management teams tended to nearly 20,000 cases.

GBA, over the past few years, has also increased the number of canopy management teams. There were 15 canopy management teams in 2020, which was expanded to 28 teams in 2023, followed by 30 teams in 2025.

City-based tree activists have welcomed the move but say this initiative should lead to faster

and better management of tree canopy, with focus on the deconcretisation of tree bases.

"Now that GBA has a dedicated team to identify dangerous and dead avenue trees, the incidents of tree fall in the next monsoon season should drastically drop. However, unless avenue trees are deconcretised, the issue of trees falling during storm and monsoon seasons will not get resolved completely," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust and a city-based environmentalist.

Preeti Gehlot, Special Commissioner of Forest, Environment and Climate

“Unless avenue trees are deconcretised, the issue of trees falling during storm and monsoon seasons will not get resolved completely

— Dattatreya Devare, Bangalore Environment Trust

Change cell, GBA, on June 19, based on directions by the National Green Tribunal, passed an order stating that the concrete or pavers installed within a one-metre radius of the avenue trees should be removed with immediate effect. The order said that a space of one metre around trees will be left free of cement and levelled with soil to facilitate the flow of water into the roots. This is because the bases of trees in the city are blocked by concrete, tar, or pedestrian paths, leading to treefall.

"While Bengaluru continues to talk about tree protection, meaningful action on the ground is missing. Many trees remain choked with concrete at their base. While the initiative saw some traction when it was first announced, its execution has been disappointing. Real change can only happen when all stakeholders are taken into confidence and work together with citizens. Involving residents at the ward level to identify and support efforts to free the trees will help ensure they survive safely through heavy monsoons and rains," said Vinod Jacob, civic activist and environmentalist.

₹613 cr for mechanical sweeping

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday has formally approved a substantial outlay of ₹613 crore for the mechanised sweeping of major and minor arterial roads across the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) jurisdiction. The decision sanctions the administrative approval necessary to hire 46 mechanical sweeping machines on a rental basis for a period of seven years. The move is aimed at significantly reducing dust pollution and improving road cleanliness, a commitment underlined in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) 2024-25 budget, which originally allocated ₹30 crore for the purchase of sweepers under the Brand Bengaluru program.

—BMB

Woman injured at BBP safari

A woman was injured at Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) after a leopard pawed through a safari bus window, causing her minor injuries. The 56-year-old woman was in a non-AC Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation safari bus when, around 1 pm, a leopard, attempting to climb onto the bus, accidentally clawed her. Banu was taken to the hospital for first aid.

The BBP authority stopped the operation of all non-AC safari buses in the park.

"Such incidents happen because tourists make noise out of excitement. We also found KSTDC drivers are not following some protocols and have not been briefing tourists on their conduct. They have not properly welded the window mesh on the vehicles, leading to this injury," said AV Surya Sen, Executive Director, BBP.

—BMB

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I, Mohammed Sultan r/o No. 377 A Block, Vijinapura, Doorvaninagar, Bangalore 560016 have changed my name from Mohammed Sultan Mohamed Akram to Mohammed Sultan for all purposes.

I, Anjali Shekhar Sharma D/O, Rumi Singh Devendra Anand R/o Villa No 42, Veneto, Jrc Palladio, Tyayakanahalli, Billapura Cross, Billapura, Sarjapura Hobli, B'luru 562125 have changed my name to Anjali Sharma for all purposes.

I IMROOZ PASHA S/O Mohammed Samiulla R/o Ward No 16 Dr No 2716 Nalbandwadi Mohalla Ramanagar 562159 have changed my name to MOHAMMED IMROOZ PASHA for all Purposes

I Aysha Nathiha W/O, Ahmed Faris P R/o C72 Snn Raj Grandeur ,kodichikkanahalli Road, Bommanahalli ,bengaluru 560068 have changed my name to Aysha Nathiha Abdul Qadir.

I, GULAB Jan Abdul Hameed S/O Abdul Hameed # 38 3rd Cr Rashad Nagar Blr-45 have changed my name to Gulab Jan for all purposes.

I, MANJUNATH REDDY, S/o, Ramareddy, resident of #124, Near Government School, Doddathoguru, Bangalore, Karnataka-560100 have changed my name to MANJUNATH RAMAREDDY, vide affidavit dt: 13.11. 2025 before notary B.M Chandrashekar, Bangalore

I Abhay Kenjale S/o Dnyandeo M Kenjale R/o B1824, Brigade Meadows, No.122 Saalu Hunase, Kanakapura Rd, Bangalore, 560082 have changed my name to Abhay Dnyandeo Kenjale for all purposes

I Pushpa Chakravathi W/O, Manian R/o No-378, 11th Cross, m V Garden,, Halasuru, hal 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560008 have changed my name to Pushpa .

I, KOWSAR BANO (Old Name) W/o Fairoz Pasha R/at No.44, 9 th Main Road , Padarayanapura, Bengaluru-560026 have changed my name to KOWSAR BANU (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 8/11/2025 Before Notary Deepa. M Bangalore.

I, ANTHONY ARUMAI SELVAM MARAY JOHN R/a #182, 4th cross, opp. PK Bakery kanakadasa lyt, Lingarajpuram Bengaluru 560084 have changed my name to ANTHONY ARUMAI SELVAM vide affidavit dated 12.11.2025 before Notary Uday Kumar K. B'lore

I Hussain Shabbir Vohra , Flat No. 401, 4th Floor, Hatim Manzil , Vinayaka Nagar , Opposite To Radiant Prime Apartment , J P Nagar 5th Phase , Bangalore - 560078 Have changed my name To Vohra Hussain

I Gulnash Parveen A W/O Riyaz Ahamed R/O no #29, 5th Cross, 22nd Main, JP Nagar 5th Phase, Bengaluru 560078. have changed my name to Gulnaz Parveen

GENERAL

.....
I, Mr. Lenin Babu
Kancharla s/o Mohan Rao
K, resident of 30, 2nd Cross,
Meenakshi Gardens, Noble
Residency Road, Bangalore
-560076 hereby declare that
I use a pen name Mr. Eliyan
OM for my philosophical
writings, books, art,
creative works. An
affadavit with certificate no
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Mohammad Hussain K, at
JayaNagar, Bangalore
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Volunteers create tool that snips away at civic red tape

Small citizen collective maps every essential government office linked to resident's address, empowering people to navigate services without middlemen

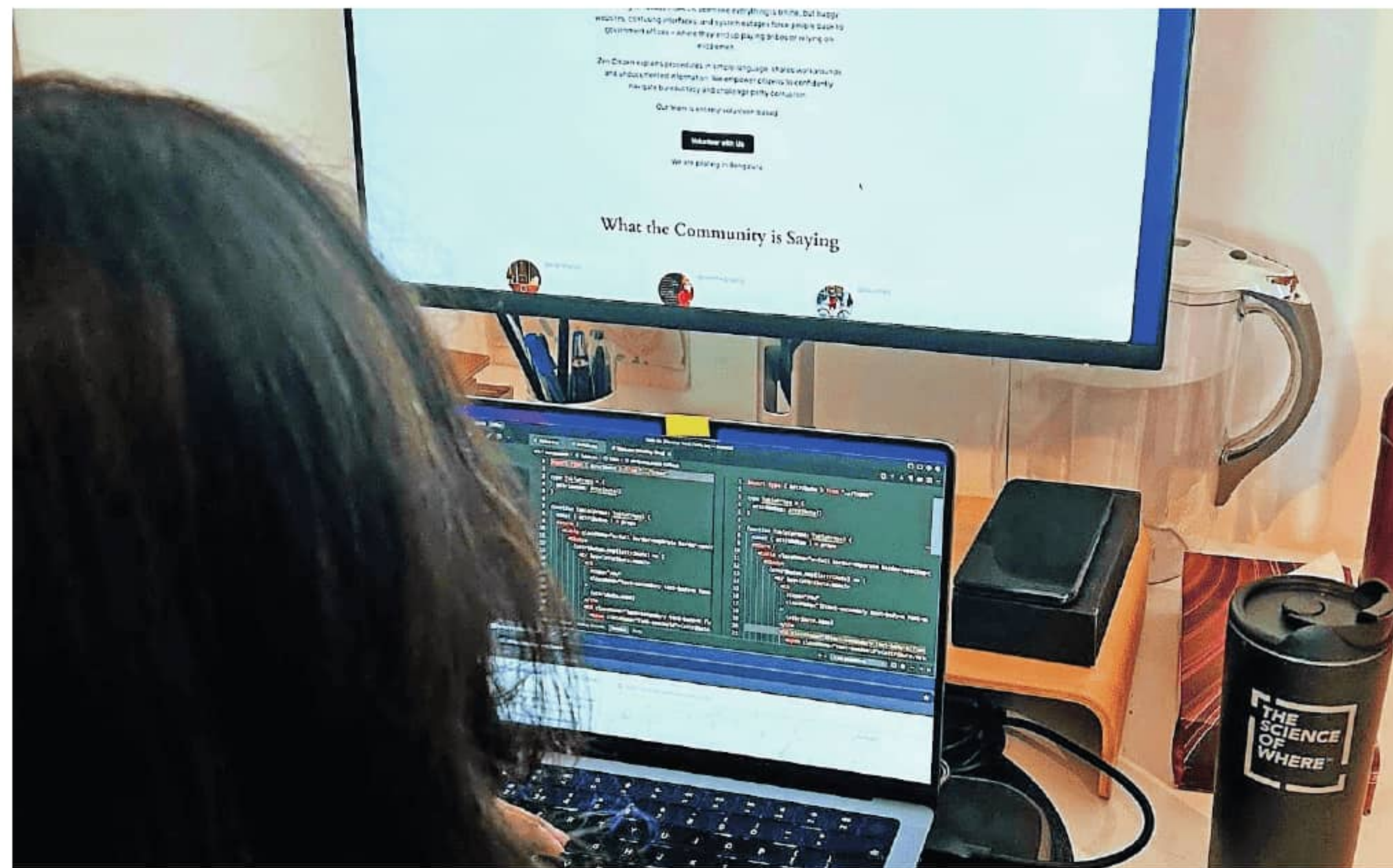
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In Bengaluru, where finding the right government office can feel like a struggle, a small group of volunteers called 'Zen Citizen' has built Civic Compass, a simple yet powerful tool that helps residents find all the government offices linked to their address, including the GBA (BBMP), BDA, BESCOM, BWSSB, and nearby police stations.

What began as a confused Reddit post—"What's the DRO for Koramangala?"—has evolved into a citywide civic empowerment project. The user who posted the query was trying to obtain an Encumbrance Certificate (EC) to apply for an e-Khata. The first step on the Kaveri portal requires selecting a district, but "Bengaluru Urban" does not appear because the city is split into five District Revenue Offices (DROs) under the Department of Stamps & Registration. With no public directory explaining which neighbourhood falls under which DRO, residents often get stuck before the process even starts, forcing many to rely on middlemen despite the system being designed for full online use.

One of Zen Citizen's core volunteers, identified as AN, had long been active in civic problem-solving—reporting traffic violations, flagging potholes and writing to authorities. He decided to take a more hands-on approach by quickly "vibe-coding" a prototype of Civic Compass to help the original Reddit poster. From that one attempt to solve a stranger's



Zen Citizen's volunteers turned a Reddit confusion into a city-wide solution, mapping every government office Bengaluru residents struggle to locate with remarkable clarity

Born from a confused Reddit query, Zen Citizen's open-source tools now simplify DRO mapping, Kaveri portal hurdles, and document processing—showing how volunteer-built civic tech can transform access to public services

problem, the idea took off. Developers Abhik and Priti Pandurangan expanded the prototype into a full-scale tool that can be adapted by residents across India for their own cities and towns.

"We want to connect citizenship with active civic participation," says Vineeta K, the founder of Zen Citizen. The project's entire codebase is open source, allowing others to contribute and replicate it. But building a tool that depends on accurate government data comes with challenges. "Finding details of

civic and municipal bodies is like a treasure hunt," says Whitefield resident Vishwanath S. "Our corrupt agencies want to keep it that way."

To close this information gap, Zen Citizen also provides RTI templates that residents can use to request data directly from departments. The group, founded in August 2024, began with a mission to help people manage government services independently, avoid middlemen, and counter corruption. Over time, it has quietly become a dependable resource for Bengaluru resi-

dents struggling with basic administrative tasks.

Since launching Civic Compass, the team has created a suite of user-friendly tools aimed at simplifying the Revenue Department's Kaveri portal. The "Kaveri Village Finder" helps users identify the correct Taluk, Hobli and Village names—critical details required for land-records access. The "Kaveri Image Resizer" makes submitting photographs for marriage registration effortless.

Prasad S, who used the image-resizing tool while applying for his marriage certificate online, says even seasoned technology professionals struggle with the portal's requirements. The volunteer group continues to grow and invites people from all backgrounds—development, Those interested can join through www.zencitizen.in.

Reservation delay threatens elections

The Karnataka High Court has issued a notice to the state government after the State Election Commission (SEC) filed a petition seeking urgent action on finalizing the reservation notification for the upcoming Gram Panchayat elections. With the tenure of 5,950 village panchayats ending in January 2025, the SEC stated that elections cannot be conducted on schedule unless the government promptly issues the final reservation list. Hearing the PIL, a division bench of Chief Justice NV Vidhu Babur and Justice CM Poonacha stressed that conducting elections on time is mandatory and depends entirely on the reservation process being completed. Court ordered the government to compile required data and respond in two weeks to avoid disruption. **-BMB**

SC clears state's Mokedatu path

In a major boost for Karnataka, the Supreme Court has dismissed Tamil Nadu's petition challenging the Mokedatu balancing reservoir project, paving the way for the state to advance the long-delayed initiative. Tamil Nadu had questioned the Detailed Project Report (DPR), but the apex court made it clear that the issue falls within the exclusive domain of the Central Water Commission (CWC), declining to interfere.

Welcoming the ruling, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar described it as "justice delivered by the judiciary" and "a victory for Bengaluru." He emphasised that the Mokedatu project, funded entirely by Karnataka and located within its territory, poses no threat to Tamil Nadu's water interests. Instead, he said, it would help stabilise regulated water releases during periods of scarcity. Calling the verdict a reflection of Karnataka's prayers and struggles, Shivakumar urged Tamil Nadu to cooperate with the state in humanity. **-BMB**

Petrol levy to fund worker welfare

The Karnataka Labour Department has proposed introducing an additional tax on petroleum products to generate 2,120 crore annually for welfare schemes benefiting unorganised workers. The proposal, sent to the Finance and Commercial Taxes Departments, aims to strengthen social security measures such as health insurance, accident compensation, educational support for workers' children, and funeral assistance. Labour Minister Santosh Lad said the plan would help extend Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka health coverage to unorganised workers and provide financial relief to those injured or killed in transport-related accidents. Aid promised, but fuel prices may rise soon. **-BMB**

Court clears RSS march with conditions

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday disposed of a petition filed by the Convenor of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Kalaburagi, who had sought permission to conduct a proposed Patha-sanchalana (route march) in Chittapur town. Justice MGS Kamal noted during the hearing that the Chittapur Tahsildar had already granted permission for the march on November 16, subject to certain conditions. At the previous hearing, the State had informed the court that it would positively consider the proposal.

When the matter was

taken up, Senior Advocate Aruna Shyam, representing the petitioner, expressed gratitude for the permission but urged the court to relax two key restrictions: the cap on participants, currently fixed at 300, and the limit of 25 band members. Shyam requested that the number of participants be increased to 600 and band members to 50, citing the 100th anniversary of the organisation as a special occasion warranting a one-time relaxation.

However, Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty, appearing for the State, opposed the plea for increasing participant numbers. **-BMB**

IN HIGH COURT

HC lets POCSO case proceed against BSY

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday refused to quash criminal proceedings under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa, paving the way for the trial to continue. Justice MI Arun held that the material placed on record was sufficient to warrant judicial scrutiny and declined to interfere with the cognisance order issued by the special court earlier this year.

While refusing to halt the proceedings, the High Court granted Yediyurappa limited

relief by exempting him from personal appearance at every stage of the trial, unless specifically required by the court. It also clarified that he was free to approach the trial court with a discharge application if he believed the evidence against him was inadequate.

The case stems from a complaint alleging that Yediyurappa sexually assaulted a 17-year-old girl at his residence in Bengaluru on February 2, 2024. The minor and her mother had reportedly gone to seek assistance in connection with another sexual assault case. **-BMB**

Dharmasthala case: HC lifts stay, trial to resume

The Karnataka High Court has vacated the interim stay on proceedings in the high-profile Dharmasthala case, allowing the trial court to resume hearings after months of suspension. The order, delivered on Thursday by Justice [Name], lifted the stay that was granted earlier while the court examined petitions filed by several accused questioning the maintainability of the case.

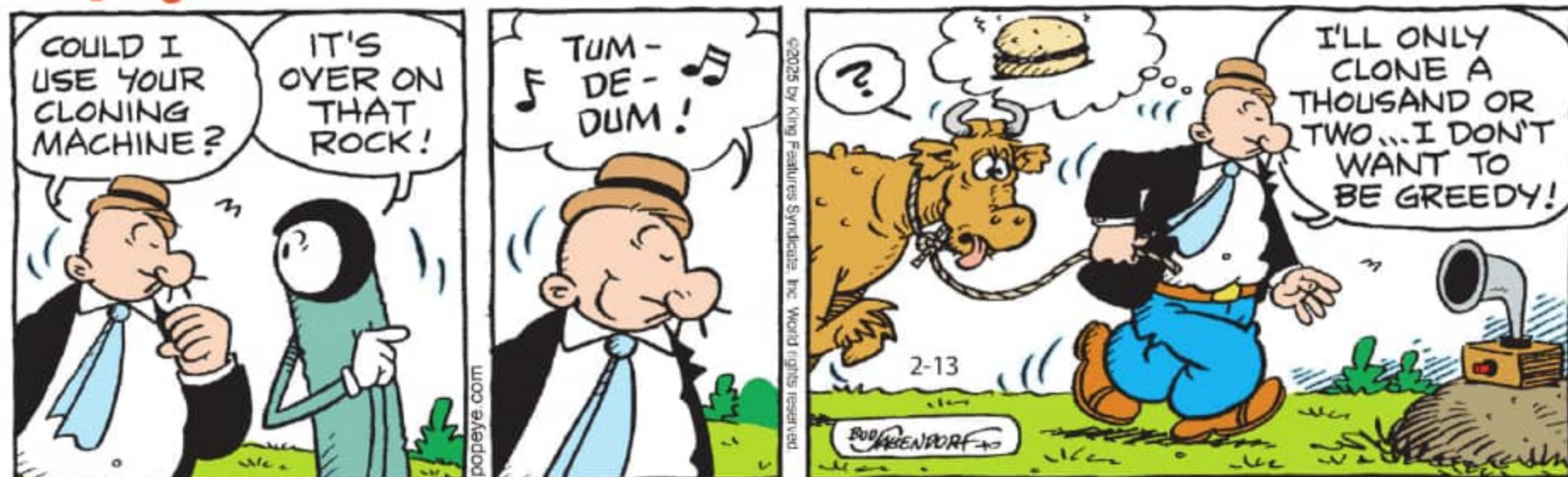
The matter involves allegations related to the administration and management of the Dharmasthala temple trust, prompting significant public interest. The petitioners had sought quashing of the

criminal proceedings, arguing that the allegations were unfounded and initiated with mala fide intent. The prosecution, however, maintained that the accused were attempting to hinder the investigation, contending that "the petitioners and their associates are fearful of the truth being revealed and are attempting to scuttle the process by filing successive writ petitions."

In its order, the High Court observed that the questions raised could be addressed during the trial and that there was no justification to prolong the stay. Directing trial court to expedite hearings without any unnecessary delay. **-BMB**

COMICS

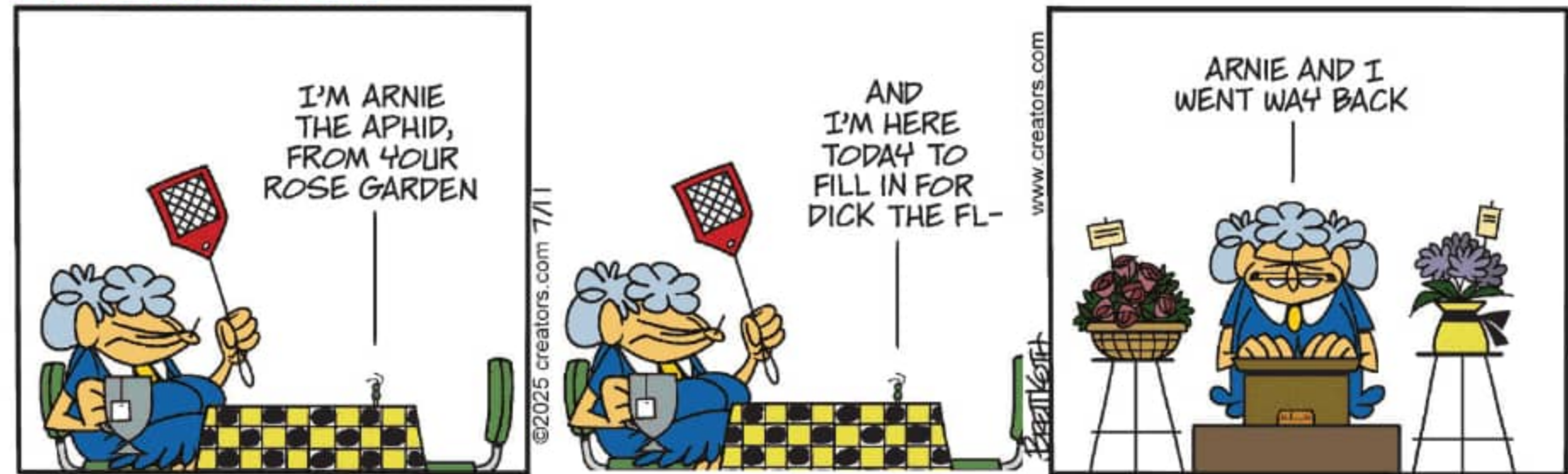
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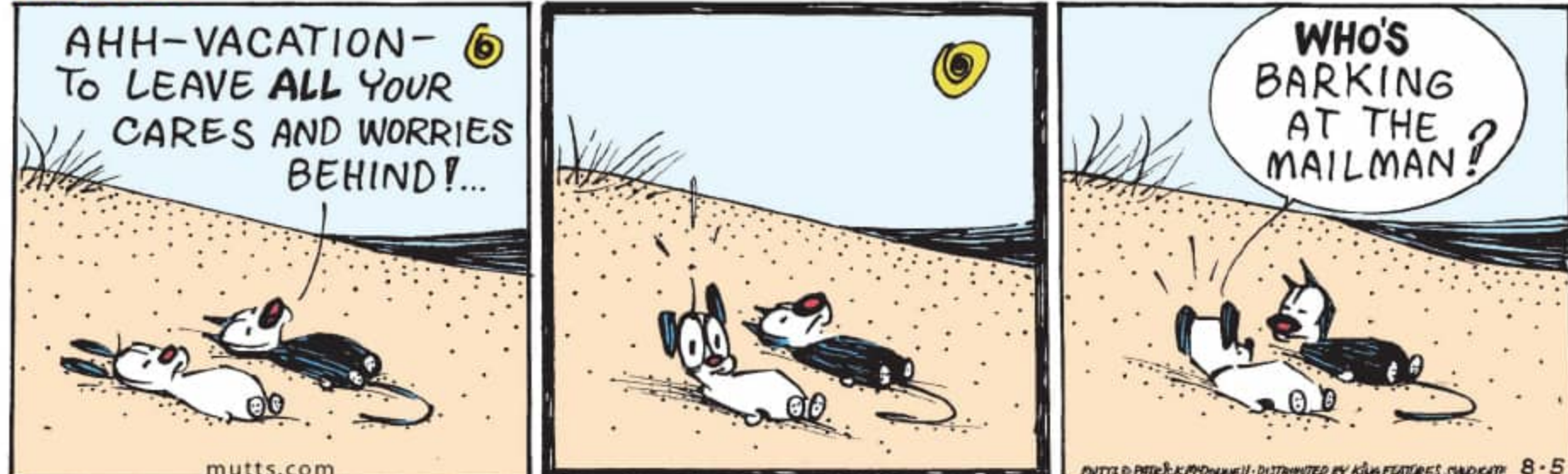
Hart of the city



Crankshaft

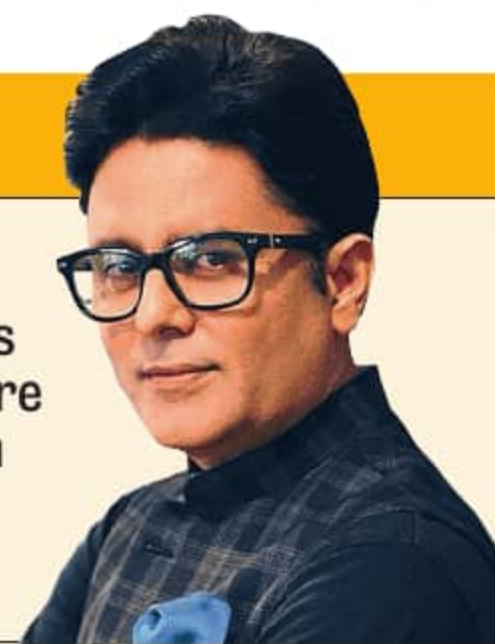


Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Your finances may be volatile at times but trend upward overall; focus on diversifying your income streams. Your career sees you take a more public-facing role, gaining well-deserved acclaim. Love demands open honesty about your deepest needs and desires. Family events and gatherings bring unexpected joy and supportive connections.

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Even if things seem uncertain, trust that life is aligning in your favour. Positive momentum is building; collaborate, stay organised, and approach challenges playfully. Unexpected turns may bring surprising blessings ahead.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Uncertainty lingers because you're torn between options. Clarity comes through reflection, not pressure. Examine your choices calmly; what feels like conflict may simply need balance and decisive, thoughtful direction.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Celebrate your progress and courage. Fear no longer overshadows your dreams. With support from loved ones, build on your strong foundation and apply past lessons wisely for long-term success.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

You've turned pain into wisdom and resilience. A peaceful, simpler chapter awaits; embrace it wholeheartedly. Your strength and laughter reveal how far you've come; you truly deserve the ease ahead.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Relax and trust the flow. Use your wisdom to handle challenges with grace. Avoid over-reaction; intuition leads better than logic today. Health and stability are improving, bringing renewed energy soon.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Feeling stuck may be an illusion. Relax, indulge in small joys, and shift perspective gently. Each small change dismantles barriers; soon you'll see freedom and opportunity where you once saw limits.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

You're shaping a better future, even through confusion. Honour your emotions, balance logic with compassion, and take the high road. This crossroads marks renewal, clarity, and joyful growth through integrity.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Your intuition is sharp; trust it fully. Keep plans private and remain composed. Some truths will reveal themselves in divine timing. Stay calm and know the universe is protecting you.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Your dreams are manifesting; stay dedicated. Release self-doubt and perfect timing will unfold. Hidden blessings surround you; you're protected and destined for success. Keep creating and moving forward with faith.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

You've gained success, but it's time to reclaim balance. A new spark pushes you towards meaningful change. Follow your excitement; it's divine inspiration guiding you towards abundance and fulfillment.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

You're choosing between comfort and independence; neither path is wrong. Reflect on what truly fulfills you and accept both pros and cons. Peace comes when you honour your authentic priorities.

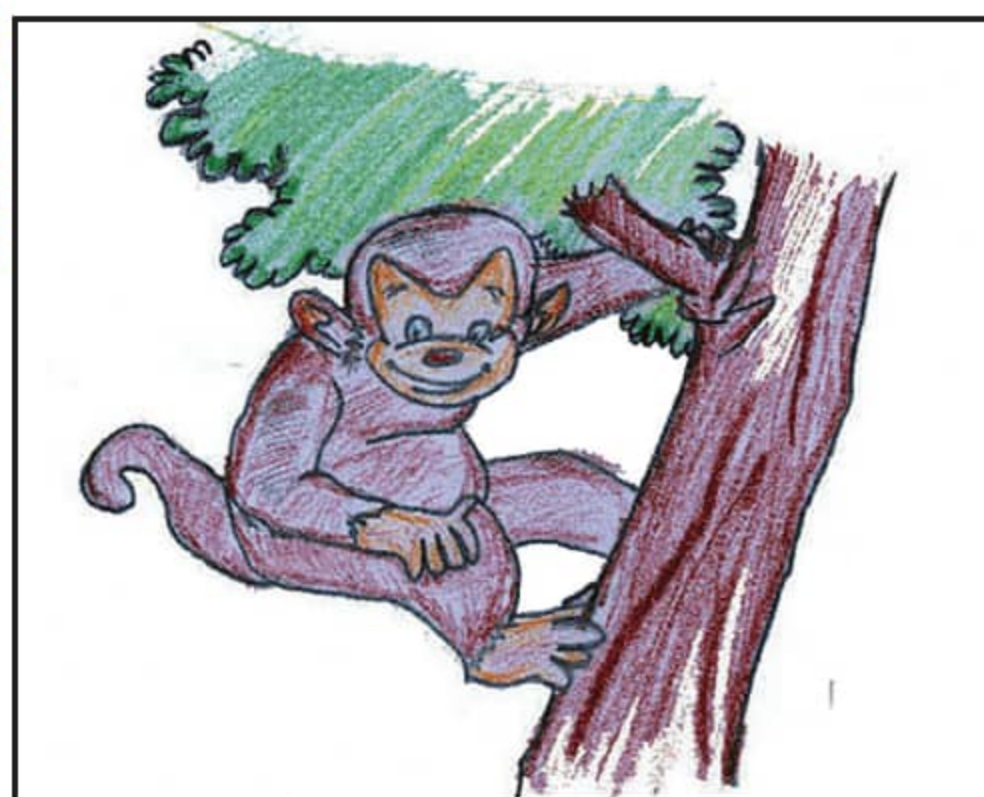


Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

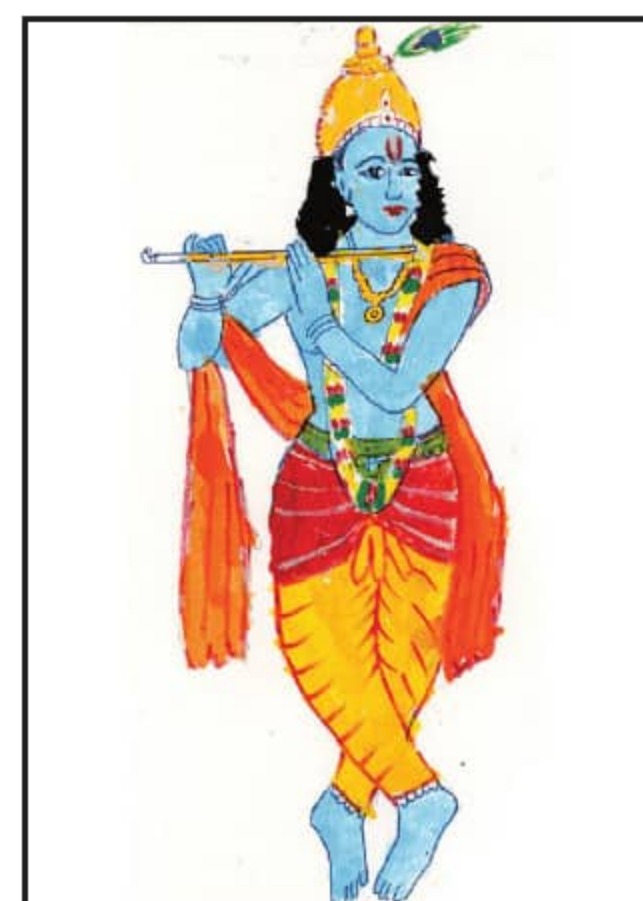
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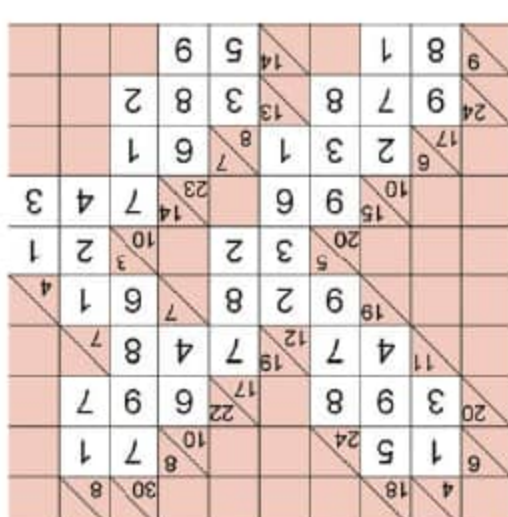
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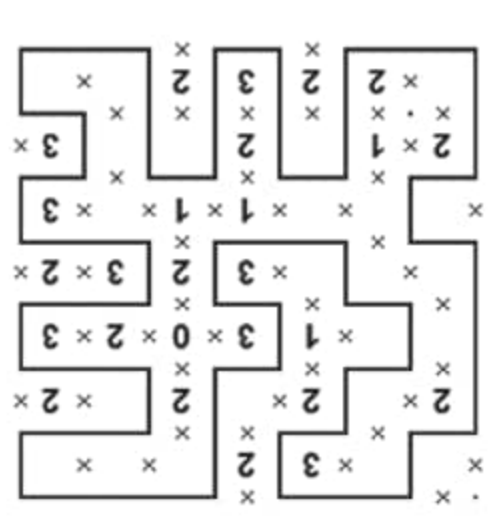
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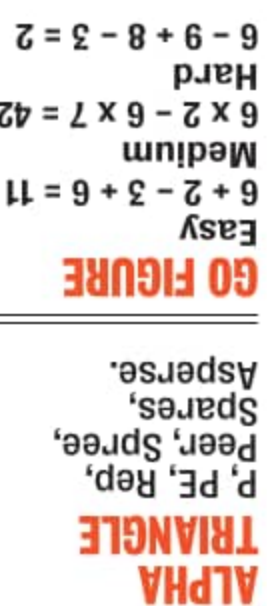
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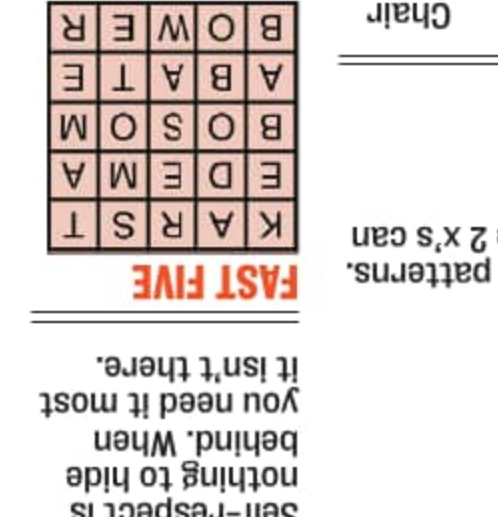
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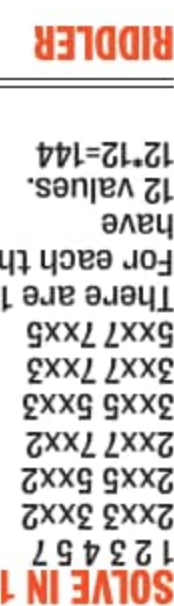
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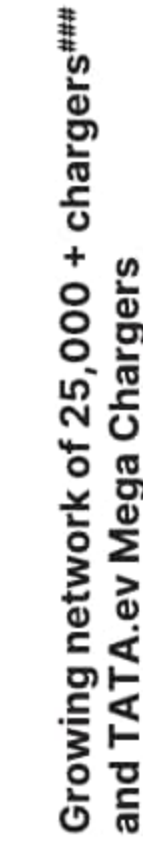


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